



# SITUATION REPORT #146



**INCIDENT NAME:** Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: February 8, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
------------------------	--	------------------

**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4555
Recovered	4304
Deaths	46
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	9
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	5
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	52,039
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	235
College Place	562
Dixie	20
Prescott	107
Touchet/Lowden	70
Waitsburg	67
Walla Walla	3494
<b>Total</b>	4555



# SITUATION REPORT #146



Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		580
20-39		1894
40-59		1337
60-79		570
Over 80		174
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1895
Male		2660
TOTAL		4555

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:



# SITUATION REPORT #146

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 02/15/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

## 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Current Outstanding Requests			

**February 8, 2021**

## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics:**
  - Martin Luther King holiday – 900 doses



# SITUATION REPORT #146

- January 23 – 1002 doses
- February 3 - 600 doses (this was a smaller clinic due to Superior Court trial at Fairgrounds)
- February 6 – 1546 doses
- Equity Task Force rollout has successful. They have been able to schedule appointments for everyone who has contacted them.

## 3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 4555
    - ❖ Recovered: 4,304
    - ❖ Active: 205
      - 196 in-home isolation
      - 14 hospitalized; 9 in county 5 out of County
    - ❖ Deaths: 46
  - Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above):
    - ❖ 15 incarcerated active
    - ❖ 3 staff active
  - DOH negatives: 51,304
  - 1/23 to 2/5 Rate per 100K: 324 (includes WSP cases)
  - **TRENDS**
    - ❖ Concern some household and family members deciding not to get tested, therefore true disease activity may be skewed
    - ❖ Gatherings of 5 – 15 people
    - ❖ Traveling – local interstate for sports tournaments, interstate and international.
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter: more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle and nitrile glove shortage continues to be an issue across the state.
- DCH experiencing large number of calls from residents interested in receiving COVID vaccine.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Logistical challenges to meet new requirement that 95% of allocation is used up to take delivery of additional vaccine.
- Inconsistent vaccine allocation. Concern for reduced allocation of vaccine because of prioritization of regional hubs. Not everyone can travel to the hub for their immunization.



# SITUATION REPORT #146

- Additional traffic and security concerns due to high profile Superior Court trial that is being held at the same location as the COVID clinic (Walla Walla County Fairgrounds).
- Continued confusion reported about how to qualify for indoor open-air ventilated dining. Recent changes made by the Governor's office. Suggestion made that there be a flyer that can be distributed. DCH will touch base with Environmental Health team.
- Winter-like weather expected for Thursday's vaccine clinic, temps in the 20's, 20% chance of snow.
- 100% bed occupancy in Walla Walla, though not related to COVID.
- Inconsistent/untimely COVID data provided by the State.

#### 4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Bi-weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Local Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:
  - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
  - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
  - Bi-weekly (change from weekly) workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
- City of College Place meeting every Wednesday with Mayor and managers for the South/Central region.
- VA Medical Center (VAMC) planning drive thru clinic on February 20<sup>th</sup> in Richland.



# SITUATION REPORT #146

- Vaccine clinic today; 2<sup>nd</sup> dose for people that received their first shot on January 18<sup>th</sup> in College Place. 1<sup>st</sup> dose clinic on February 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose clinic on February 13.
- DCH participating in WSAC meeting today to demonstrate Walla Walla County's vaccine delivery process and Equity Task Force.
- VAMC has daily vaccine clinics all week and will hold a 500-dose clinic this Saturday.
- Distillery in Western Washington has hand sanitizer donation. Chamber of Commerce is working with them.
- Prep Mod trial today for vaccine appointments.

**Prepared By:** Liz Jessee & Patrick Purcell, Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901 or [ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Contact tracing and disease investigation

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

**INCIDENT INFORMATION:** [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us) 509-524-2916

**PREPARED BY:** Kara Breymeyer, Jodi Ferguson, Local Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, WWCDCH – 509-524-2657 [jferguson@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:jferguson@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer,



# SITUATION REPORT #146



---

WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office